

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2005

Committee Members: Dennis Bromery, Carlton C. Brose, Mary Jane Laus, Paul Lind, Irving Rothberg, W. C. Venman (chairperson), Walter Wolnik (clerk)

Staff: Jeff Comenitz, Kris Pacunas, Roy Rosenblatt

Select Board Liaison: Anne Awad

The Cable Advisory Committee is charged by the Town with overseeing the license granted by the Town to its cable access provider, Comcast; with negotiating a renewal license with Comcast; and with overseeing all aspects of public, educational and governmental access. During FY 05, the Committee met eighteen times.

The Committee had been reconstituted during the preceding fiscal year to prepare for the relicensure process. During FY 05, Paul Bobrowski's term expired, and he elected not to be reappointed. Other members whose terms expired were reappointed. Mr. Bobrowski's position on the Committee was filled by Mary Jane Laus, who has had extensive experience with the public access aspects of the Committee's work.

The bulk of the Committee's work during FY 05 pertained to discussing and preparing drafts of a renewal license for our cable provider, Comcast. The Committee has spent, quite literally, hours and hours discussing the contents of the draft, which as of this writing (August 2005) is in its penultimate form. We have been assisted in this process by Attorney William Solomon of Stoneham, who has reviewed and commented on three successive drafts since earlier this spring. We anticipate completing work on the draft and beginning negotiations with Comcast early this fall.

In addition to working on the draft license, we dealt with housekeeping issues and spent almost an entire meeting hearing from the president of the Board of Directors of ACTV and from concerned members.

Minutes of all of our meetings are on file with the Town.

Finally, we continue to receive wonderful support from the three staff liaisons. Messers. Pacunas and Rosenblatt represent the Town. Mr. Comenitz represents the Schools. Messers. Pacunas and Commenitz provide much needed technical expertise, and Mr. Rosenblatt guides us through the intricacies of Town policies and procedures. We also stay in contact with the Select Board through their liaison with the Committee, Ms. Awad.

For the Committee
William C. Venman, Chairperson